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EXAMINER
WANG, F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2307

DATE MAILED: 01/02/92

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on 8/23/89 ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three (3) month(s). _____ days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449. | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474. | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☐ Claims _____ are pending in the application.
Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☐ Claims _____ have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims _____ are allowed.
4. ☐ Claims _____ are rejected.
5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.
6. ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable. ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948).
10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner. ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____, has been ☐ approved. ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
12. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

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1'. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1 it is not specified how personal computers (PCs) use multi-tasking processing means or what enables them to "use". "The one" referred to is without antecedent basis as "at least one" is previously claimed. It is also not specified how the coordination of editing is accomplished. It is further not specified the nature of the interconnecting means. The interconnecting means could be a steel cable locking the PCs together among many other things.

2. In claim 2, voice communication means are claimed for enabling. How is this enabling accomplished? What structures are involved such that voice communications are enabled?

3. In claims 3, 13 and 20 it would be preferable to use "general purpose" in place of "non-dedicated" if that is what is meant.

4. What structures are involved in the linking of claim 4? How is the linking accomplished?

5. In claims 5, 7, 8, 14, 16 how are modems associated with PCs? How is the sending and receiving done? What performs these functions? How and by what are the compression and decompression performed? What type of analog communications link is involved?

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How are the compression and decompression means included in the modems?

6. In the statement "wherein either each of said...with each of said personal computers..." it is unclear what is meant. It cannot be determined whether PCs or modems are associated with PCs. PCs and modems are not equivalent so they should not be referred to as alternatives. The use of "or" in this case results in an indefinite interpretation of the claim. Please note that the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 specifically states that the claims must "particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention."

7. With respect to claim 9, what are the means for inputting, displaying, and interconnecting? How are they accomplished? How is the coordinating done? By what means? What is the method of coordinating? What is the meaning of "substantially simultaneously? Either they occur simultaneously or they do not. If not, what is the delay and is it important?

8. In claim 10 how is the linking done? By what means is the linking done? How is the interconnecting means utilized? What does it mean to poll the input? What operations may be requested? What does the requesting? What does it mean to request? How and by what is the sending done? How is data indicative? What does it indicate? What carries out the

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operation?

9. In claim 11, how are the plurality of voice communication means associated with PCs? What does it mean to associate?

10. Regarding claim 14, how are signals associated with PCs?

11. In claim 15, how are PCs grouped? How is the word "bridge" being used?

12. In claim 17, what does it mean to "lock out" a user? What does it mean to be "considered by the coordinating means"?

13. In claim 18, how and by what is the processing done? How is a file "under control" of a PC? How are instructions input from a PC?

14. In claims 19 and 22 how are voice communications established?

15. In the claims, it is unclear how each of the steps and/or features are structurally interrelated in such a manner as to form an editing system. It is further unclear how the steps and/or features contribute to an editing system especially as no editing steps are claimed.

16. The applicant should note that the questions raised above are not a request for further technical details, but rather they are a request for the applicant to reword the claims in such a manner as to remove any vague, indefinite, and/or confusing references.

17. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35

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U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to adequately teach how to make and/or use the invention, i.e. failing to provide an adequate disclosure.

18. Claims 5, 7-11, 13-17, 19, 22, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth in the objection to the specification.

The following are considered to be non-enabled: The methods of implementing the compression and decompression, the methods and means of sending and receiving, the method and means for coordinating inputs, and the method and means for enabling voice communication.

These features are considered to be essential to the invention in light of the disclosure, yet there has not been provided sufficient information to allow one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention without undue experimentation.

19. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section

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102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

20. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,014,267 to Tompkins et al.

21. The invention of Tompkins shows a video conferencing network comprising a plurality of video terminals (column 2, line 64), interconnection means (column 3, line 3), a plurality of voice communications means (column 7, line 65), a non-dedicated digital communications system (column 11, line 56) wherein the non-dedicated digital communication system links both the video terminals and voice communications means (figures 3 and 4a), an analog communications link (column 3, line 16) a modem (column 7, line 20), a local area network (column 6, line 52), and means for inputting and displaying (column 5, line 37, 53).

22. Although the invention of Tompkins does not specifically state the use of personal computers in the system, it was well known at the time of the inventions that a video terminal may also be a personal computer.

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23. The video conferencing network of Tompkins also lacks the use of a multi-tasking processing means, but does disclose the use of a network master and a local area network. It was well known at the time of the invention that network managers, which are necessary in the operation of a network, operate as multi-tasking systems.

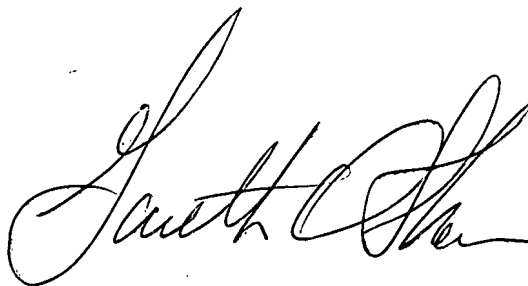
24. The applicant should note that in the prior art statement of Tompkins is taught the use of compression and decompression techniques to improve the transmission rates of video images.

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Y. Wang whose telephone number is (703) 308-1662.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0754.



P. Y. Wang/mb
December 27, 1991



GARETH D. SHAW
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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